

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 DPW-01 DHA-02

SAM-01 /078 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3295

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USUN NY 1128

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 3565

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MILI, ID, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE PRISONERS IN TIMOR

REF : (A) JAKARTA 3420 (B) LISBON 1699

1. IN MEETING WITH LT. GENERAL YOGA SOEGAMA, CHIEF OF BAKIN, MORNING MARCH 17, HE CONFIRMED GENERAL MURDANT'S EARLIER SUGGESTION THAT THE BEST WAY TO HANDLE QUESTION OF PORTUGUESE PRISONERS IN TIMOR WOULD BE A DIRECT GOP APPEAL TO THE PGET. YOGA SAID THIS COULD BE DONE IN NEW YORK OR THROUGH THE DUTCH OR, IF REQUESTED, INDONESIA WOULD OFFER ITS GOOD OFFICES FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONVEYING THE MESSAGE TO THE PGET. HE RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME BARGAINING ON THE PART OF PGET, WHICH HE SAID INDONESIA WAS TRYING TO DISCOURAGE. ONE PROBLEM IN THIS REGARD WHICH HE OUTLINED CONCERNED THE PORTUGUESE BANK IN DILI, WHICH HE SAID IS NOW CLOSED, AND ALL OF ITS ASSETS TRANSFERRED TO LISBON. HE ADDED THAT TIMORESE
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WHO WERE FORMERLY CIVIL SERVANTS IN THE COLONIAL GOVERN-

MENT WERE REQUIRED TO INVEST A PORTION OF THEIR SALARIES IN PORTUGUESE SECURITYIES WHICH THEY CANNOT NOW RECOVER. YOGA DID NOT RULE OUT IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN PGET AND PORTUGAL. HE NOTED THAT GOVERNOR ARAUJO OF PGET HAS SON AND DAUGHTER IN PORTUGAL, ALTHOUGH HE SPENT TEN YEARS IN PORTUGUESE JAIL AND MISTRUSTS PORTUGUESE.

2. YOGA SAID THAT GOI HAD URGED PGET TO PAY STRICT ATTENTION TO WELFARE OF PORTUGUESE PRISONERS AND TO ALLOW THEM TO SEND AND RECEIVE LETTERS TO AND FROM THEIR FAMILIES. HE CLAIMED THERE WAS GREAT BITTERNESS, HOWEVER, AMONG PGET OFFICIALS BECAUSE OF DISCOVERY OF MASS GRAVES WHERE ANTI-FRETILIN FORCES AND CIVILIANS HAD BEEN MASSACRED BY FRETILIN AND PORTUGUESE TROPAS.

3. YOGA ALSO RAISED THE MATTER OF A PORTUGUESE SOLDIER WHO HAD RECENTLY COME INTO PGET HANDS. YOGA COULD NOT RECALL THE NAME OF THIS INDIVIDUAL BUT SAID HE COULD GO BACK TO PORTUGAL ANYTIME HE WISHED AND THAT, IF REQUESTED BY THE SOLDIER, GOI WOULD PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR HIM FROM JAKARTA TO MACAO. THE SOLDIER IS APPARENTLY IN GOOD HEALTH. YOGA OFFERED NO CLUE AS TO WHY THERE WAS DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN THIS INDIVIDUAL AND 23 PORTUGUESE PRISONERS CAPTURED EARLIER. IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS INDIVIDUAL HAS AGREED TO LEND HIMSELF TO SOME INDONESIAN PURPOSE. WE HAVE NO SUPPORTING INFORMATION ON EXISTENCE THIS INDIVIDUAL.

4. YOGA CONCLUDED THAT HE WAS WILLING THAT WE CONVEY TO PORTUGUESE FACT OF INDONESIAN WILLINGNESS TO OFFER GOOD OFFICES IN APPROACHING PGET AND INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ONE SOLDIER NOW FREE TO LEAVE.

5. COMMENT: INDONESIAN OBVIOUSLY EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ABOUT POSITION OF PGET. WE HAVE IMPRESSION PORTUGAL CAN DEAL WITH PROBLEM IF IT PREPARED PAY SUITABLE ATTENTION TO PGET. AS FAR AS OUR ROLE HERE IS CONCERNED, I FEEL WE HAVE MADE POINT AND SHOULD NOW GENERALLY LEAVE FURTHER INITIATIVE TO PORTUGUESE.

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